



Now you see it, now you don't

When Debbie Hoare received a reminder by post about renewing her parking permit, she immediately went online, paid for a new permit and printed it out, following the guidelines on the parking service website. She displayed this over her expired permit (see photo) but was amazed to find a Penalty Notice on her car no less than an hour later. Debbie, of Cherry Tree Road, appealed but this was rejected and she now faces a hefty fine.

The guidelines state that Civil Enforcement Officers should "be aware of the variation" between home-printed permits and those mailed out. She told the ARCHER she had inquired about but not received any photographic proof from Barnet to support their grounds for the fine. These were that "no permit was found on the vehicle" according to the Civil Enforcement Officer's report. This could imply that Debbie placed her expired and new permit on her windscreen after she had received the penalty notice.



The new permit clearly visible over the old one. Photo by Debbie Hoare.

It seems that it is Debbie's word against the Officer's report. How many other disgruntled motorists have found themselves forced into such a position when dealing with a service set up to safeguard residents in a CPZ?

KALASHNIKOV KULTUR By Ricky Savage, the voice of social irresponsibility

Gold rush

The fat lady has sung, the world has gone home with its medals, the Zil lanes are open, and normal chaos is resumed. And even in my weird, whacked-out corner of the world, I can't help feeling it was one hell of a party.

Weird only starts to describe the experience as Team Brit counts its medals and Boris counts his luck. Why? Because nothing went seriously wrong, the Tubes didn't crash, no one died, and Team Brit got more medals than the Aussies, French and Germans. And even when Team Brit lost on penalties to the South Koreans it didn't matter. Not when we'd won medals in running, jumping and standing still.

The big shock came at Wimbledon. For the first time since television was invented, a Brit won the men's singles. At that moment even Londoners could forgive Andy Murray for being Scottish.

I stopped counting medals at 50. And look at some we won. The first women's boxing gold medal won anywhere other than outside a nightclub on a Saturday night. The first time we've won one for kicking people in the head. And, last but not least, two golds for horse-dancing. What more could a bankrupt country with an economy dead in the water want?

Boys and girls in boats, a man with a gun and the cyclopaths all won. So what if our swimmers didn't manage a single gold? The Brownlee Brothers combined swimming, cycling, running and winning medals. So that was all right then.

It was the best Olympics for Team Brit since the map of the world was mostly red, and the King collected two kinds of stamps; British filed at the front of the album and foreign all jumbled up at the rear. And even if we can't claim that wars are won on the playing fields of Eton, a hatful of medals was won on its boating lake. Now we wait for Rio, to see if we get it right next time.

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North London Lettering Association

North London Lettering Association (NLLA) was founded in 2001 to bring together people interested in, and those practising, the craft of calligraphy/lettering in all its forms, living north of the Thames. Among our members we have a number of very supportive professional calligraphers but most of us are amateurs and part-time students who are enthusiastic about the way letters and words look. We work with a vast number and variety of scripts (like computer fonts) from copperplate to gothic, italic to foundational. It's also possible to design your own alphabet from scratch and further personalise your work.

A calligrapher makes choices of how to transfer words onto paper, vellum, wood, fabric, glass and stone, using a metal nib, quill, brush, chisel or engraving tool. He can select ink, gouache, charcoal, acrylic paint, pastels, gold leaf, coloured pencils and embroidery silks, to name a few!

Meetings and workshops

At NLLA's monthly meetings we often invite well-known craftsmen to talk about and show their work, including commissions. Subjects range from brush lettering to papermaking, letter carving on stone and wood, heraldry, book binding, quill preparation and using gold leaf. Some speakers demonstrate a particular skill and allow us to practise afterwards.

NLLA's own members may offer to lead a meeting, giving us a personal view of their ongoing commissions, finished work or sphere of interest.

Workshops are organised at intervals to offer a range of skills related to calligraphy, lettering and allied crafts. Our next workshop is on 29 September: 'Brush Writing on Paper & Fabric'.

At our meetings there is something for everyone. Calligraphy is not a cure for bad handwriting but you can be creative with the simplest script and materials. Who knows where it may lead you!



A selection of members' work. Photo courtesy of NLLA.

Our meetings are held at The CUFOS Centre, at the top of The Avenue, London N10 2QE (behind Alexandra Palace), 7.30 to 9.30pm, on the third Tuesday of each month except

August and December. Further information is on NLLA's website: www.nlla.org.uk We invite anyone with an interest in lettering, regardless of ability, to join us.

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- Printmaking:** Fridays 10.30 - 12.30pm, 5 weeks, price £50, starting 9th Nov

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